No. 07-021

In The

Supreme Court of the United States

WILLIAM CRAWFORD, *et al.*,
Petitioners,
v.
MARION COUNTY ELECTION BOARD, *et al.*,
Respondents.

On Writ of Certiorari to the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit

BRIEF OF *AMICI CURIAE* ASIAN AMERICAN JUSTICE CENTER, ASIAN LAW CAUCUS, ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN LEGAL CENTER OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, AND ASIAN AMERICAN INSTITUTE, *ET AL.*, IN SUPPORT OF PETITIONERS

[DISENFRANCHISEMENT OF ASIAN AMERICAN VOTERS]

KAREN NARASAKI
VINCENT ENG
TERRY M. AO
ASIAN AMERICAN JUSTICE CENTER
1140 CONNECTICUT AVE., NW
SUITE 1200
WASHINGTON, DC 20036
(202) 296-2300

MARK A. PACKMAN
(COUNSEL OF RECORD)
JONATHAN M. COHEN
ALYSON A. FOSTER
TARA M. KELLY
GILBERT RANDOLPH LLP
1100 NEW YORK AVE., NW
SUITE 700
WASHINGTON, DC 20005
(202) 772-2200

Counsel for Amici Curiae

[Additional *Amici* listed on inside cover]

Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum
Asian & Pacific Islander American Vote
Asian American Business Roundtable
Asian American Indian Women of Ohio
Asian Law Alliance
Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO
Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach
Chinese for Affirmative Action
Filipinos for Affirmative Action
Hmong National Development, Inc.
Japanese American Citizens League
Korean American Coalition
Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics
Na Loio Immigrant Rights and Public Interest Legal Center
National Alliance of Vietnamese American Service Agencies
National Asian Pacific American Bar Association
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum
National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development
National Korean American Service & Education Consortium
Organization of Chinese Americans
Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center

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STATEMENT OF INTEREST OF *AMICI CURIAE*[1]

The Asian American Justice Center ("AAJC"), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, was incorporated in 1991 and opened its Washington, D.C., office in 1993. AAJC works to advance the human and civil rights of Asian Americans through advocacy, public policy, public education, and litigation. In accomplishing its mission, AAJC focuses its work to promote civic engagement, to forge strong and safe communities, and to create an inclusive society in communities on a local, regional, and national level. A nationally recognized voice on behalf of Asian Americans, AAJC focuses its expertise on affirmative action, anti-Asian violence prevention/race relations, census, immigrant rights, language access, and voting rights. We have maintained a strong interest in the voting rights of Asian Americans and strive to protect Asian Americans' access to the polls. Such long-standing interest has resulted in our participation in a number of amicus briefs before the courts.

Amici include Japanese, Chinese, Filipino, Korean, Hmong, South Asian, Pacific Islander, Cambodian, Laotian, and Vietnamese American public-interest groups. *Amici* also include some of

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[1] The parties have consented to the filing of this brief. No counsel for a party authored this brief in whole or in part, and no counsel or party made a monetary contribution intended to fund the preparation or submission of this brief. No person other than *Amici curiae*, their members, or their counsel made a monetary contribution to its preparation or submission.

the largest and oldest Asian American organizations in this country that are involved in challenging racial discrimination, safeguarding civil rights, and advocating for voting rights. The statements of interest for these additional *Amici* are included in Appendix A.

SUMMARY OF ARGUMENT

In this case, the Court is asked to balance the impact on the right to vote of an Indiana statute that requires photographic identification against the state's proffered justification for that law – the prevention of voter fraud. As other briefs have shown, the state's justification is based solely on undocumented speculation about voter fraud. This brief addresses the impact of Indiana's voter identification law on Asian Americans (and other minorities) and concludes that, given the barriers the law erects to legitimate Asian American voter participation, the law is unconstitutional.

The Indiana statute sets a new requirement for voting in Indiana: only those who possess a federally issued identification or an identification card issued by the state of Indiana, such as a driver's license, can cast a ballot. This restriction on the right to vote creates an unreasonable barrier to voting by naturalized citizens of this country, disproportionately depriving Asian Americans of that fundamental right. Combined with the unique challenges faced by Asian Americans at the polls due to perceptions that they are "outsiders" or "foreigners" rather than "real Americans," the restrictions imposed by the Indiana law are

particularly invidious when considered against the utter lack of evidence that the purported reason for the Indiana statute – the need to prevent voter fraud – even exists. In light of this nation's history of voting discrimination, this deprivation of a fundamental right is constitutionally suspect.

The history of voting in this country is replete with examples of states enacting seemingly neutral voting requirements that have the effect of preventing racial minorities from voting. Indiana's example is particularly dangerous, as it raises barriers to voting for minority groups such as Asian Americans under the guise of addressing a problem that may not even exist.

ARGUMENT

I. INDIANA'S LAW DISPROPORTIONATELY DEPRIVES ASIAN AMERICANS OF THE RIGHT TO VOTE BY REQUIRING IDENTIFICATION THAT ASIAN AMERICANS ARE LESS LIKELY TO POSSESS

Indiana law requires that individuals wishing to exercise the fundamental right to vote show a government-issued photo identification. Ind. Code §§ 3-11-8-25.1 (requiring the presentation of identification to vote) *and* 3-5-2-40.5 (2006) (setting forth the criteria for appropriate identification). This law effectively sets a new requirement for voting in Indiana: only those who possess a federally issued identification or an identification card issued by Indiana such as a driver's license can cast a

ballot. The Indiana law turns U.S. citizens without these forms of identification away from the voting booth.

Immigrant and minority voters are "consistently less likely to have" the required identification. Matt A. Barreto, Stephen A. Nuño & Gabriel R. Sanchez, *Voter ID Requirements and the Disenfranchisements of Latino, Black and Asian Voters* 1 (2007) (presented at 2007 American Political Science Association Annual Conference) (on file with *Amici*). Racial and ethnic minorities, including Asian Americans, do not have the same access to identification as whites. *Id.* at 16-17.

The only generally available federal identification card for most citizens is the passport. But obtaining a passport requires both time and some expense, with delays up to three months. Michelle Higgns, *New Passport Rules May Mean Delays*, N.Y. Times, Oct. 1, 2006, http://www.nytimes.com/2006/10/01/travel/01prac.html?_r=2&ref=travel&oref=slogin&oref=slogin. The fee to obtain a passport is currently $97 for those of voting age. U.S. Dep't of State, Passport Fees, http://travel.state.gov/passport/get/fees/fees_837.html. Nationwide, just over one-quarter of all Americans have U.S. passports. Higgins, *supra*. *See also* U.S. Sen. Carl Levin, Important Information Regarding Temporary Travel Flexibility for U.S. Citizens Traveling to Canada, Mexico, Bermuda or the Caribbean by Air, http://www.senate.gov/~levin/newsroom/release.cfm?id=275776.

Absent a passport, the statute in question requires voters to present an Indiana state-issued identification card. Asian Americans and foreign-born individuals, however, tend to be less likely to have driver's licenses,[2] and the requirements for obtaining an Indiana identification card further deter Asian American would-be voters. In Indiana, in order to receive a driver's license or identification card, an applicant must provide either (a) one primary document, one secondary document, one document proving residency, and proof of a valid social security number or (b) two primary documents, one document proving residency, and proof of a valid social security number. 140 Ind. Admin. Code 7-4-2 (b) (2006). Indiana law requires no fewer than two and as many as four documents to obtain the requisite identification to vote.

Such a requirement makes it more difficult for minority voters to obtain a driver's license. *See* Barreto, *et al.*, *supra*, at 16 (finding that in California, New Mexico and Washington, Asian American and African American voters are twenty percent less likely to have two forms of six common forms of identification (driver's license, birth certificate, bank statement, passport, utility bill, property tax statement), and that Latino voters are thirteen percent less likely to have two forms of identification).

[2] *See* Barreto, *et al.*, *supra*, at 26, tbl. 3 (finding that Asian American and foreign-born voters in California, New Mexico and Washington State are eight percent less likely than their white counterparts to have a valid driver's license).

In Indiana, it is not hard to see why. Under the statute in question, one primary form of identification required to obtain a driver's license is a U.S.-issued birth certificate. 140 Ind. Admin. Code 7-4-3 (b)(1) (2006). Asian Americans in Indiana, like Asian Americans nationally, are still primarily foreign-born. A full sixty percent of voting age Asian American U.S. citizens living in Indiana are foreign-born. U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000: Summary File 4, PCT 44, http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2003/SF4.html. Another primary form of identification is a Certificate of Naturalization. Obtaining a replacement Certificate of Naturalization requires $380 and can take up to a year. *See* U.S. Dep't of Homeland Sec., Instructions for Application of for Replacement Naturalization /Citizenship Document 2, http://www.uscis.gov /files/form/N-565instr.pdf (documenting the filing fee); U.S. Immigration Assistance Ctr., Naturalization Frequently Asked Questions, https://www.immigration-bureau.org/c_faq.htm#21 (noting year-long wait for replacement papers).

This additional prerequisite to Asian Americans exercising the right to vote operates in much the same way that now shameful relics of our nation's history such as poll taxes and literacy tests did: it places unjustifiable obstacles in the way of one group of voters to access the ballot box. The Indiana statute should be declared unconstitutional in the same way those laws were.

A simple glance at the list of secondary documents for obtaining an Indiana driver's license further demonstrates the ways in which Asian

Americans are disproportionately impacted by the Indiana statute. Nearly one in ten Asian American citizens who were 35 years of age or older in 2000 immigrated to the United States between 1990 and 2000 and could not have received a high school education in the United States. U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Advanced Query (on file with *Amici*). Thus, secondary documents acceptable to prove identification, including certified academic transcripts from U.S. schools, a school report card dated within twelve months of the application, and a yearbook photo within three years of application, simply do not exist for many Asian American voters.

Asian Americans also disproportionately lack common documents, such as bills, that may be used to show the proof of residency that is a prerequisite to obtaining an Indiana state-issued identification. In the case of family and multi-generational households, a living pattern Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are more likely to engage in, bills may be solely in the name of the male head of household, leaving the other adults without proof of their residency in that house. Barreto, *et al.*, *supra*, at 17. *See also Hearing on S.440, S.464, H.638, H.649, H.650, H.652, H.680, H.692, H.695, and H.709 Relating to Voter Identifications Requirements Before Joint Committee on Election Laws*, 185 Gen. Ct., Sess. 1 (Mass. 2007) (statement of Carole Pelchat, Vice Pres., League of Women Voters of Mass.), http://www.lwvma.org/Oral%20Testimony%20for%20JEL%20Hearing%206-13-07%20ID%20Requirements%20FINAlletterheadL.pdf ("Many Americans live in domiciles as roommates, spouses, or relatives, or live on a college campus, where their

name is not on the lease or on utility bills."). Asian American voters are eighteen percent less likely to be able to produce a utility bill and eleven percent less likely to be able to produce a property tax bill. Barreto, *et al.*, *supra,* at 26, tbl. 3. In Indiana, fifty-four percent of voting age Asians living in households are not householders (for Census purposes, the householder is the person identified as the head of the household). By contrast, forty-six percent of the total population living in households are not householders. U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Advanced Query (on file with *Amici*).

Each of these examples of the ways that Asian Americans disproportionately lack the forms of identification required under the Indiana statute in question demonstrate the law's restrictive effect on the fundamental right to vote. The statutory requirements for obtaining government-issued identification clearly disadvantage Asian Americans (and other immigrants and non-native Indiana residents). The Court has declared that restrictions on the right to vote must be "closely scrutinized and carefully confined." *Harper v. Virginia Bd. of Elections*, 383 U.S. 663, 670 (1966). Indiana's statute, which requires that voters show forms of identification that native Indiana voters have as a matter of course, but that naturalized citizen voters either simply do not have or need to jump through numerous hoops to acquire, sometimes at great expense and often with long delays, falls far short of this standard.

Participation in the democratic process should unite all Americans. The Indiana statute divides

voters between insiders and outsiders, between native Indiana residents and U.S citizens from other states and nations.

II. THE INDIANA STATUTE IS AN INVITATION TO DISCRIMINATE AGAINST ASIAN AMERICANS AT THE VOTING BOOTH

Asian Americans face unique challenges at the polls, as they have for decades, because they frequently are considered "outsiders" or "foreigners" rather than "real Americans" with the right to vote.[3] The Indiana statute all but legalizes such exclusion, not only by requiring identification that Asian Americans are less likely to have but by legislating an additional proof requirement of eligibility. This is particularly invidious when considered against the utter lack of evidence that the purported reason for the Indiana statute – the need to prevent voter fraud – even exists.[4]

This country has often legislated Asian Americans' "outsider" status through exclusionary immigration and citizenship laws. *See, e.g.*, Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, ch. 126, 22 Stat. 58, 58-61;

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[3] *See, e.g.*, Claire Jean Kim, *The Racial Triangulation of Asian Americans*, 27 Pol. & Soc'y 105, 108-16 (1999) (describing history of whites perceiving Asian Americans as foreign and therefore politically ostracizing them).

[4] *See, e.g.*, Barreto, *et al.*, *supra*, at 7 ("A recent *Project Vote* report however provides a comprehensive review of extant data and concludes that all available evidence suggests voters rarely commit voter fraud in the United States.").

Geary Act, ch. 60, § 1, 27 Stat. 25 (1892); Immigration Act of 1917, ch. 29, 39 Stat. 874 (establishing an "Asiatic barred zone"). Not until 1952 were these exclusionary laws lifted and Asian Americans allowed to immigrate and to naturalize in larger numbers, thus gaining the right to vote. But the elimination of de jure discrimination against Asian Americans did not mean that prejudice against Asian Americans was similarly eliminated,[5] and the legal right to vote has not always translated into an equal right to access the ballot box. This is evident in discriminatory treatment of Asian Americans by poll workers. To provide just two of numerous examples from California to Florida:

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[5] In 2001, a comprehensive survey revealed that seventy-one percent of adult respondents held either decisively negative or partially negative attitudes toward Asian Americans. Committee of 100, *American Attitudes Toward Chinese Americans and Asians* 56, http://www.committee100.org/publications/survey/C100survey.pdf (2001). Racial representations and stereotyping of Asian Americans, particularly in well-publicized instances where public figures or the mass media express such attitudes, reflect and reinforce an image of Asian Americans as "different," "foreign," and the "enemy," thus stigmatizing Asian Americans, heightening racial tension, and instigating discrimination. C. Lee, *Beyond Black and White: Racializing Asian Americans in a Society Obsessed with O.J.*, 6 Hastings Women's L.J. 165, 181 (1995); S. Turnbull, *Wen Ho Lee and the Consequences of Enduring Asian American Stereotypes*, 7 Asian Pac. Am. L.J. 72, 74-75 (2001); Terry Yuh-lin Chen, *Hate Violence as Border Patrol: An Asian American Theory of Hate Violence*, 7 Asian L.J. 69, 72, 74-75 (2000); Jerry Kang, *Racial Violence Against Asian Americans*, 106 Harv. L. Rev. 1926, 1930-32 (1993); T. Devos & M. Banaji, *American = White?*, 88 J. Personality & Soc. Psych. 447 (2005) (documenting empirical evidence of implicit beliefs that Asian Americans are not "American").

- In the 2000 general election in San Francisco County, a poll worker, frustrated with a Chinese American constituent's lack of English proficiency, yelled at the voter and took his ballot away.[6]

- In West Palm Beach, Florida, an election worker told a voter that the city was not handling Asian American voters at that polling place.[7]

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[6] *Informational Hearing on the Federal Voting Rights Act Before the S. Elections, Reapportionment and Constitutional Amendments Committee*, 2005 Leg., Sess. 3 (Cal. 2005) (statement of Karin Wang, Vice President, Programs, Asian Pacific American Legal Center), http://www.sen.ca.gov/ftp/SEN/COMMITTEE/STANDING/EL/_home/HearingsTestimony/KarinWang12_5_2005.pdf.

[7] *Continuing Need for Section 203's Provisions for Limited English Proficient Voters: Hearing on S. 2703 Before Subcomm. on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Prop. Rights of the Comm. on the Judiciary*, 109th Cong. 8 (2006) (statement of Karen K. Narasaki, Pres. and Exec. Dir. Asian Am. Justice Ctr.) [hereinafter *Narasaki Statement*] (detailing poll worker abuse). Likewise, poll workers have been documented as maintaining separate lines for English-speaking voters and those with limited English proficiency, providing incorrectly translated materials, denying citizens the right to enter a polling place with an assistant of their choice, labeling South Asian American voters as "terrorists," and intimidating Asian American voters. Asian Am. Legal Def. & Educ. Fund, *Asian Americans and the Voting Rights Act: The Case For Reauthorization* 19-22 (2006) [hereinafter AALDEF 2006], http://www.aaldef.org/docs/AALDEF-VRAReauthorization-2006.pdf.

The Indiana law, at best, provides cover for such selective mistreatment of Asian Americans at the polls and, at worst, facilitates and encourages it. The National Commission on Election Reform has found that identification laws such as Indiana's lend themselves to selective enforcement at the polling places, where poll workers may decline to enforce the law with individuals they know and use the requirement to confront and intimidate "strangers." John Mark Hansen, Task Force on the Federal Election System, *Voter Identification*, in *To Assure Pride and Confidence in the Electoral Process* ch. VI, at 4 (2001), http://www.tcf.org/publications/electionreform/full_tf_report.pdf. Asian Americans, both historically and today, because of skin color, language proficiency, names or other bases for differentiation from "real American," too often bear the brunt of such characterizations.[8]

Indeed, in states where poll workers already have the discretion to ask for photo identification, studies have shown they are more likely to ask for the identification from minority voters. In the 2004 election, for example, minorities were required to

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[8] The prejudicial belief that Asian Americans are not "Americans" and thus not entitled to vote is disseminated by the media as well. In 2005, for example, when discussing a Korean American mayoral candidate, a New Jersey radio host denigrated Asian Americans during an on-air radio show by using racial slurs, speaking in mock Asian gibberish, and making comments such as "I don't care if the Chinese population in Edison has quadrupled in the last year. Chinese should never dictate the outcome of an election. Americans should . . . ." *Narasaki Statement*, *supra*, at 9.

show their identification seven percent more often than white voters. In New York, sixty-nine percent of Asian American voters who were asked to show identification were not legally required to do so. AALDEF 2006, *supra*, at 19.

Even in a state like Indiana, where all voters must show identification in order to cast an official ballot, poll workers are still charged with ensuring that the photo identification is adequate, that the picture matches the person presenting the identification, and that the name "conforms" to the voter rolls, and are required to challenge voters whose identification, in the poll worker's discretion, is inadequate. Ind. Code §§ 3-5-2-40.5 (1) (requiring "the name [to] conform[] to the name in the individual's voter registration record") *and* 3-11-8-25.1 (c)(2) (allowing "a member of the precinct election board [to] determine[] that the proof of identification provided by the voter does not qualify as proof of identification under IC 3-5-2-40.5"). This leaves several ways in which poll workers can discriminate against minorities, intentionally or unintentionally. Even benign influences, such as improper training of poll workers, lead to the rejection of eligible Asian American voters from the polls. *See Hearing on Non-Citizen Voting Before Comm. on House Admin.*, 109th Cong. (2006) (statement of Christine Chen, Exec. Dir., Asian Pacific Islander Am. Vote), http://cha.house.gov/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=81&Itemid=41 ("Deciding whether a voter matches or does not match the photo in an ID card is a very subjective process.").

The requirement that names on identification conform to names on the voting rolls can also deter eligible Asian American voters because of confusion when Asian names are Anglicized. For example, the order of first and last name is easily reversed. *Id.* Converting Asian names into written English can also result in discrepancies. *Id.* Thus, a poll worker who is unfamiliar with Asian American names – or who is motivated by an improper purpose – can deny Asian Americans the right to vote by exercising his or her discretion to determine that the name on an Asian American voter's identification card does not "conform" to the name listed on the rolls.[9]

The history of voting in this country is replete with examples of states enacting seemingly neutral voting requirements that have the effect of preventing racial minorities from voting.[10] The

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[9] *Cf.* People For the American Way Foundation, *The New Face of Jim Crow: Voter Suppression in America* 19-20 (2006), http://media.pfaw.org/PDF/Reports/TheNewFaceOfJim Crow.pdf. (noting that, in California in 2006, a requirement for matching a new voter name to existing state databases (*e.g.*, "Michael R .Neuman" would not match a "Mike R. Neuman" at the same address) resulted in numerous voter registrations being rejected – over 26,000 in Los Angeles County alone).

[10] For example, state laws requiring poll taxes and literacy tests that appeared neutral in reality disproportionately disenfranchised minority voters because poll workers selectively applied them. The Court has struck down such laws repeatedly. *See, e.g.*, *Lassiter v. Northampton Election Bd.*, 360 U.S. 45, 53 (1959) ("[A] literacy test may be unconstitutional on its face . . . [as t]he legislative setting of that provision and the great discretion it vested in the registrar made clear that a literacy requirement was merely a device to make racial discrimination easy.") (citing *Davis v. Schnell*, 81 F. Supp. 872

(Continued . . .)

Indiana statute extends that sad history and should be treated in the same way that prior discriminatory voting laws have been: as unconstitutional and threatening to our most basic democratic principles.[11]

CONCLUSION

Under any standard of review, this Court should find the Indiana voter identification law unconstitutional under the Fourteenth Amendment and should reverse the Seventh Circuit's decisions below.

(S.D. Ala. 1949); *Louisiana v. United States*, 380 U.S. 145, 150 (1965) (affirming the District Court's finding that Louisiana's literacy test was discriminatory because it gave "virtually unlimited discretion" to the "registrars of voters, and because in the 21 parishes where the interpretation test was applied that discretion had been exercised to keep Negroes from voting because of their race").

[11] As one commentator has noted, the balancing of the likelihood of voter fraud against the potential for disenfranchisement of legitimate voters must be assessed carefully:

> While a small amount of voter fraud hypothetically could determine a close election, the exclusion of twenty million Americans who lack photo identification could erroneously skew a larger number of elections . . . . More important, erroneous exclusion of legitimate participants carries greater costs in the voting context because assessing the will of the people as a whole is an essential objective of democracy.

Spencer Overton, *Voter Identification*, 105 Mich. L. Rev. 631, 634, 636 (2006).

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KAREN NARASAKI
VINCENT ENG
TERRY M. AO
ASIAN AMERICAN JUSTICE CENTER
1140 CONNECTICUT AVE., NW
SUITE 1200
WASHINGTON, DC. 20036
(202) 296-2300

MARK A. PACKMAN
(COUNSEL OF RECORD)
JONATHAN M. COHEN
ALYSON A. FOSTER
TARA M. KELLY
GILBERT RANDOLPH LLP
1100 NEW YORK AVE., NW
SUITE 700
WASHINGTON, DC 20005
(202) 772-2200

MYRON QUON
Asian American Institute
4753 N. Broadway, Suite 904
Chicago, Il 60640
(773) 271-0899

EUGENE LEE
Asian Pacific American
Legal Center of
Southern California
1145 Wilshire Blvd., 2n
Floor
Los Angeles, CA
(213) 977-7500

MALCOLM Y. YEUNG
The Asian Law Caucus
939 Market Street
Suite 201
San Francisco, CA 94103
(415) 896-1701

Counsel for Affiliated Amici Curiae

APPENDIX

List of *Amici Curiae*

Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum

The Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum ("APIAHF") is a national advocacy organization dedicated to promoting policy, program, and research efforts to improve the health and well-being of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and other Pacific Islander ("AA,NHOPI") communities. Founded in 1986, APIAHF approaches activities with the philosophy of coalition-building and developing capacity within local AA,NHOPI communities. We advocate on health issues of significance to AA,NHOPI communities, conduct community-based technical assistance and training, provide health and U.S. Census data analysis and information dissemination, and convene regional and national conferences on AA,NHOPI health. Our health and well-being advocacy extends to an interest in increased participation in the electoral process within the AA,NHOPI communities and results in our participation in this amicus brief.

Asian & Pacific Islander American Vote

Asian and Pacific Islander American Vote ("APIAVote") is a national nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that encourages and promotes civic participation of Asian Pacific Islander Americans in the electoral and public policy processes at the national, state and local levels. We envision a society in which all Asian Pacific Islander Americans

fully participate in and have access to the democratic process. As such, APIAVote has a long-standing interest in voting rights and protecting the rights of Asian Americans to access the polls. This interest has resulted in APIAVote's participation in a number of amicus briefs before the courts.

Asian American Business Roundtable

The Asian American Business Roundtable ("AABR") was established in 1989 to help Asian and other minority-owned businesses access federal procurement, expand their market base with the Federal Government as well as the commercial sector by providing information that is accurate and timely to enable them to make informed decisions beneficial to their companies. AABR has a long-standing interest in voting rights and protecting the rights of Asian Americans to access the polls. This interest has resulted in AABR's participation in a number of amicus briefs before the courts.

Asian American Indian Women of Ohio

Asian American Indian Women of Ohio ("AAIWO") was incorporated as a non-profit organization in 1989 in the State of Ohio. The AAIWO is an organization that attempts to reach out to Asian women at home and in the professional world. It aims to foster and support women for leadership; promote culture and education in society; establish networks for women; recognize the contribution of women to our society; and make contributions to society, thereby enhancing the image of Asian Indians in America. As such, AAIWO has a long-standing interest in voting rights and protecting the rights of Asian Indian women to access the polls.

This interest has resulted in AAIWO's participation in a number of amicus briefs before the courts.

Asian American Institute

The Asian American Institute ("AAI") is the Midwest region's pan-Asian, nonprofit organization, whose mission is to empower the Asian American & Pacific Islander community through advocacy, utilizing research, education, and coalition-building. AAI is committed to ensuring that Asian Americans are able to vote, unencumbered by barriers including language access and inaccessible poll sites. Through AAI's poll watching and exit polling, AAI has documented the difficulties that place unwarranted burdens upon Asian American voters. AAI thus opposes the voter identification law presented.

Asian Law Alliance

The Asian Law Alliance ("ALA") is a local non-profit, non-partisan organization whose mission is to ensure equal access to the justice system to Asian and Pacific Islanders and low income residents of Santa Clara County through legal services, community education and advocacy. Founded in 1977, ALA has a long standing interest in voting rights and protecting the rights of Asian and Pacific Islanders to access the polls.

Asian Law Caucus

The Asian Law Caucus is the nation's oldest legal and civil rights organization serving the low-income Asian Pacific American communities. The mission of the Asian Law Caucus is to promote, advance and represent the legal and civil rights of the Asian and Pacific Islander communities. Recognizing that social, economic, political and racial inequalities

continue to exist in the United States, the Asian Law Caucus is committed to the pursuit of equality and justice for all sectors of our society with a specific focus directed toward addressing the needs of low-income Asian and Pacific Islander. Such pursuit includes an interest in voting rights and protecting the rights of Asian Americans to access the polls, which in turn has resulted in the Asian Law Caucus' participation in a number of amicus briefs before the courts.

Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO

The Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance ("APALA"), AFL-CIO, is the first and only national organization of Asian Pacific American union members. It organizes and works with Asian Pacific American workers, many of them immigrants, to build the labor movement and address exploitative conditions in the garment, electronics, hotel and restaurant, food processing, and health care industries. APALA has a long-standing interest in voting rights and protecting the rights of Asian Americans to access the polls. This interest has resulted in APALA's participation in a number of amicus briefs before the courts.

Asian Pacific American Legal Center of Southern California

The Asian Pacific American Legal Center of Southern California ("APALC") is the largest provider of direct legal services, civil rights advocacy, community education, and impact litigation for low-income Asian and Pacific Islander Americans in the country. Since 1982, APALC has represented APIAs in a number of areas, including

antidiscrimination, workers' rights, family law, immigration, and hate crimes. For 15 years, APALC has conducted election day poll monitoring to ensure equal access to the ballot for APIA and other voters who face barriers to voting because of their limited English proficiency, unfamiliarity with the voting process, or perceived status as outsiders. APALC is committed to protecting the voting rights of historically disenfranchised communities.

Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach

Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach (formerly Nihonmachi Legal Outreach), is a community-based, social justice organization serving the Asian and Pacific Islander ("API") communities of the Greater Bay Area. Our mission is to promote culturally and linguistically appropriate services for the most marginalized segments of the API community. With a staff of 20 in offices in San Francisco and Oakland, we provide legal, social, and educational services in more than a dozen languages and dialects including Cantonese, Chiu-Chow, Hindi, Ilocano, Japanese, Korean, Lao, Mandarin, Spanish, Tagalog, Taiwanese, Urdu, and Vietnamese. Our work is currently focused in the areas of domestic violence, violence against women, immigration and immigrant rights, senior law and elder abuse, human trafficking, public benefits, and social justice issues. We have a long-standing interest in voting rights and protecting the rights of Asian Americans to access the polls. This interest has resulted in our participation in a number of amicus briefs before the courts.

Chinese for Affirmative Action

Chinese for Affirmative Action ("CAA") was founded in 1969 to protect the civil and political rights of Chinese Americans and advance multiracial democracy in the United States. Today, CAA is a progressive voice in and on behalf of the broader Asian and Pacific American community. We advocate for systemic change that remedies racial injustice, ensures equal opportunities for communities of color, reduces language barriers, and promotes immigrant rights. CAA has a long-standing interest in voting rights and protecting the rights of Chinese Americans to access the polls. This interest has resulted in CAA's participation in a number of amicus briefs before the courts.

Filipinos for Affirmative Action

Filipinos for Affirmative Action ("FAA") was established in Oakland, CA, in 1973 in response to the growing influx of immigrants from the Philippines and the discrimination they faced as newcomers to the U.S. Today, FAA strives to build a strong and empowered Filipino community by organizing constituents, developing leaders, providing services, and advocating for policies that promote social and economic justice and equity. FAA has a long-standing interest in voting rights and protecting the rights of Filipino Americans to access the polls. For many years we have helped newcomers become citizens, encouraged them to register to vote, and conduct voter mobilization efforts to increase participation in the electoral process. This interest has resulted in FAA's participation in a number of amicus briefs particularly where it involves protecting and expanding voting rights.

Hmong National Development, Inc.

Hmong National Development, Inc. ("HND") is a national 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to building capacity, developing leadership and empowering the Hmong American community. HND works with local and national organizations, public and private entities, and individuals to promote educational opportunities, increase community capacity, and develop resources for the well-being, growth, and full participation of Hmong in society. HND has a long-standing interest in ensuring and protecting the voting rights of all Hmong to access the polls. This interest has resulted in HND's participation in a number of amicus briefs before the courts.

Japanese American Citizens League

The Japanese American Citizens League ("JACL"), the nation's oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization, is a membership-based organization whose mission is to secure and maintain the human and civil rights of Americans of Japanese ancestry and others victimized by injustice. While the JACL's founding mission was focused on protecting the civil rights of Americans of Japanese ancestry, today we are committed to protecting the rights of all segments of the Asian Pacific American community. As such, we have a long-standing interest in voting rights and protecting the rights of Asian Americans to access the polls. This interest has resulted in our participation in a number of amicus briefs before the courts.

Korean American Coalition

The Korean American Coalition ("KAC") is a non-profit, non-partisan, community advocacy organization. Established in 1983, its mission is to promote the civic and civil rights interests of the Korean American community, through education, community organizing, leadership development, and multiethnic coalition building. Accordingly, KAC takes a strong interest in protecting the voting rights of Korean Americans, which includes access to the polls. Such interest has resulted in our participation in a number of amicus briefs before the courts.

Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics

Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics' ("LEAP") mission is to achieve full participation and equality for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders through leadership, empowerment, and policy. It is a national, nonprofit organization, that works to achieve its mission by: developing people, because leaders are made, not born; informing society, because leaders know the issues; and empowering communities, because leaders are grounded in strong, vibrant communities. LEAP has a long-standing interest in voting rights and protecting the rights of Asian Americans to access the polls. This interest has resulted in LEAP's participation in a number of amicus briefs before the courts.

Na Loio Immigrant Rights and Public Interest Legal Center

The Na Loio Immigrant Rights and Public Interest Legal Center ("Na Loio") is a non-profit organization, established in 1983, whose mission is to provide statewide legal services, community education, and

advocacy in the public interest for vulnerable Hawai'i residents including low income immigrants, refugees, and other persons seeking justice. Na Loio has a long-standing interest in voting rights and protecting the rights of Asian Americans to access the polls. As a result of Na Loio's interest in voting rights and access to the polls, we have informally monitored Hawai'i's voting polls and, where appropriate, registered concerns with state and county entities regarding access to the polls.

National Alliance of Vietnamese American Service Agencies

The National Alliance of Vietnamese American Service Agencies ("NAVASA") is a national advocacy agency currently comprised of 34 community-based organizations and faith-based organizations. Since its incorporation in 1995 as a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, NAVASA has promoted economic self-sufficiency and active citizenship for Vietnamese-Americans through full participation in the political system. NAVASA is committed to assisting its affiliates address the linguistic, social, economic, and civic needs facing community members in their specific localities. To empower the Vietnamese community in the United States and facilitate the transition of Vietnamese refugees and immigrants from dependency to self-sufficiency, NAVASA has maintained a strong interest in the voting rights of Vietnamese Americans. This interest has resulted in our participation in a number of amicus briefs before the courts.

National Asian Pacific American Bar Association

The National Asian Pacific American Bar Association ("NAPABA") is the national association of Asian Pacific American attorneys, judges, law professors, and law students, providing a national network for its members and affiliates. NAPABA advocates for the legal needs and interests of the Asian Pacific American community and represents the interests of over 40,000 attorneys and 50 local Asian Pacific American bar associations, who work variously in solo practices, large firms, corporations, legal services organizations, non-profit organizations, law schools, and government agencies. Since its inception in 1988, NAPABA has been at the forefront of national and local activities in the areas of civil rights. In furtherance of its mission to promote justice, equity, and opportunity for Asian Pacific Americans, NAPABA works to protect Asian Pacific Americans' right to vote and participate in the electoral process.

National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum

The National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum ("NAPAWF") is the only national, multi-issue Asian Pacific American ("APA") women's organization in the country and works to build a movement to advance social justice and human rights for APA women and girls. To this end, NAPAWF supports protecting the right of all individuals to engage in the democratic process by having access to the polls.

National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development

The National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development ("National CAPACD") is a membership-based network of local community-based agencies who are active players in various social and economic empowerment movements that came together after the Civil Rights era and developed through the War on Poverty initiatives. Our member organizations are 5-35 years old and serve Asian Americans, Pacific Islander, Native, refugee, immigrant, and low-income communities. We have a long-standing interest in voting rights and protecting the rights of Asian Americans to access the polls. This interest has resulted in National CAPACD's participation in a number of amicus briefs before the courts.

National Korean American Service & Education Consortium

The National Korean American Service & Education Consortium ("NAKASEC"), a national non-profit organization based in Los Angeles, California, was founded in 1994 by the following local community centers: Korean Resource Center ("KRC") in Los Angeles, Korean American Resource & Cultural Center ("KRCC") in Chicago and Empowering the Korean American Community ("YKASEC") in New York. As a multi-issue civil rights and human rights organization based in the Korean American community, NAKASEC's mission is to project a national progressive voice for Koreans Americans and promote their full participation in the United States. To this end, we promote equitable and just changes to the political and legislative systems through a combination of education and policy

advocacy with grassroots organizing and community mobilization. NAKASEC's long-standing interest in voting rights and protecting the rights of Korean Americans to access the polls has resulted in NAKASEC's participation in a number of amicus briefs before the courts.

Organization of Chinese Americans

In 1973, Organization of Chinese Americans ("OCA") was established with the vision of uniting Chinese Americans across the United States into one representative voice. Today, there are over 80 OCA chapters and affiliates across the country working on behalf of Americans of Asian and Pacific Islander descent to advance the social, political and economic well-being of Asian Pacific Americans in the United States. OCA has a long-standing interest in voting rights and protecting the rights of Asian Americans to access the polls. This interest has resulted in OCA's participation in a number of amicus briefs before the courts.

Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund

Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund ("SALDEF") is the oldest and largest Sikh American national non-profit civil rights and educational organization. Founded as the Sikh Mediawatch and Resource Task Force (SMART) in 1996, SALDEF empowers Sikh Americans through legal assistance, educational outreach, legislative advocacy, and media relations. SALDEF has over a decade of experience in working with other Sikh and minority organizations in providing public policy, advocacy and community education on discrimination issues. SALDEF has a strong interest in voting rights and

protecting the rights of Asian Americans to access the polls.

Southeast Asia Resource Action Center

Southeast Asia Resource Action Center ("SEARAC") was founded in 1979 to facilitate the relocation of Southeast Asian refugees into American society as well as the development of nonprofit organizations led by and for Southeast Asians. SEARAC's principal mission is to advance the interests of Southeast Asian Americans by promoting community empowerment and leadership development, as well as advocating for and representing the diverse Southeast Asian American community on issues and concerns such as education, health care, safety, economic development, and civil rights. We also foster civic engagement among Southeast Asian Americans, and represent our communities at the national level in Washington, D.C. As such, we have a strong interest in the voting rights of Southeast Asian Americans and strive to protect their access to the polls.